



FORM D.

THE
British Red Cross Society.

Patron.

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

President.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

Chairman of the Council.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD ROTHSCHILD, G.C.V.O.

Chairman of the Executive Committee.

SIR FREDERICK TREVES, BART., G.C.V.O., C.B.

MEDICAL ORGANISATION IN CASE OF INVASION.

THE Secretary of State for War issued on August 16th, 1909, to Secretaries of Territorial County Associations in England and Wales a Scheme for the Organisation of Voluntary Aid for sick and wounded in the event of war in the home territory.

The scheme proposes to make use of the existing organisation of the British Red Cross Society and to develop it on a large scale, so that it shall comprehend every district in the country. The help of the St. John Ambulance Association has also been secured for the preliminary training of candidates wishing to take part in the work. A county system has been adopted because it is that upon which both the Territorial Force and the British Red Cross Society are organised.

Each County Association is charged with the responsibility of organising voluntary aid in the county, and is required, through the local branches of the British Red Cross Society, to form VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS. There need be no limit to the number of such detachments. Those in each county will be under the command of a County Director.

The County Director will be appointed by the local branch of the British Red Cross Society. He will be responsible for the efficiency of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, and be controlled only by the Committee of the Red Cross Branch for the county. The Committee in turn is responsible to the County Association for the efficiency of the detachments.

The whole organisation is intended to provide supplementary aid to the Territorial Medical Service to meet the needs of war at home.

An opportunity is thus given to the British Red Cross Society to take a share in the work appropriate to those who in all civilised countries seek to mitigate the lot of the sick and wounded in war. Speaking generally, there is at present no personnel for organisations connecting the field ambulances with railway lines ("clearing hospitals") and no personnel organised for rest stations or temporary hospitals ("stationary hospitals") along routes of evacuation.

The scheme now issued is devised to fill this gap and to provide a system for the removal of the sick and wounded from the field ambulances to the lines of railway, and thence to the general hospitals.

After all engagements the wounded are removed to a point some miles behind the line of fire by the Field Ambulances. From such point the further transport of the wounded is to be undertaken by the Voluntary Aid Detachments, who will administer to the wants of those under their charge until the general hospital is reached.

Removal of Sick and Wounded from Field Ambulance to General Hospital.

The duties connected with the removal of sick and wounded from field ambulances to general hospitals are enumerated as follows :

1. The preparation of country carts and other vehicles provided by transport authorities for the removal of patients lying down.
2. Improvising stretchers, etc., for the transport of very severe cases by hand.
3. The conversion of country houses, farms, public buildings, or, in fact, whole villages or small towns into temporary hospitals for the care and shelter of sick and wounded until they can be placed on railway trains for conveyance to general hospitals.
4. Similar utilisation of local resources for the care of trivial cases of sickness or wounds in the vicinity of field operations.
5. The formation of rest stations along lines of evacuation, either by road, rail, or water, where sick and wounded may receive rest and refreshment, or, if necessary, accommodation over-night ; or where they may be made comfortable while waiting to be loaded on trains, or after they are taken off trains.
6. The formation of evacuating stations at rail-head or its vicinity, where sick and wounded can be classified as regards the kind of accommodation required on ambulance or other trains previous to being sent away to the general hospitals. These evacuation stations are practically expanded rest stations.
7. The formation of similar stations at points where it may be necessary to redistribute the sick and wounded, in order to send some to one general hospital and some to another. These distribution stations are also expanded rest stations.
8. Local arrangements for transport of sick and wounded from railway stations to hospitals or other medical posts, and vice versâ.
9. The provision of a personnel for accompanying the sick and wounded during conveyance by road or rail.
10. The fitting out of empty goods vans or other rolling stock for the transport of sick and wounded by rail.
11. The collection and distribution of material for clearing hospitals and rest stations, and management of dépôts of such material.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS.

The Voluntary Aid Detachments are to supply the personnel for the discharge of these duties. The detachments should be of two classes, consisting respectively of men and women, and should be so arranged that each could be divided into two. The training and equipment of the detachments is to be carried out in a manner to be prescribed by the British Red Cross Society, but they will be inspected periodically by military authorities. The training of the detachments should be such as to enable them to utilise local resources for improvising accommodation and transport of wounded, and for providing for their temporary care and treatment until they reach the general hospitals. Men's detachments would therefore be specially trained in transport of wounded, and women's detachments in the preparation of food and in nursing duties.



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Each local Voluntary Aid Detachment is to be organised on the following system :—

MEN'S DETACHMENT, BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

- 1 Commandant.
- 1 Assistant Commandant... .. (To command half detachment in event of detachment being divided into two).
- 2 Medical Officers.
- 1 Quartermaster.
- 1 Assistant Quartermaster (Quartermaster of half detachment in event of division).
- 2 Pharmacists } (One of each for each half detachment).
- 2 Assistant Pharmacists }
- 4 Under Officers (Two for each half detachment, and 1 for each of 4 sections of 12 men).
- 48 Men.

WOMEN'S DETACHMENT.

- 1 Commandant (Medical man or medical woman).
- 1 Assistant Commandant (Medical man or medical woman).
- 1 Quartermaster (man or woman).
- 1 Assistant Quartermaster (man or woman).
- 2 Lady Superintendents.
- 20 Women (of whom two should be fully-trained nurses).

The detachments should be trained to make use of local resources for improvising stretchers and means of carrying wounded on various kinds of vehicles, and for converting local buildings into suitable shelters for sick and wounded, the manual entitled *Royal Army Medical Corps Training*, 1908 (*published by Wyman and Son, Fetter Lane, London, price 9d.*), being used as a guide until a special manual which the Society has in process of preparation is issued. A squad of four men so equipped should have with it material for preparing improvised stretchers out of local material, for fitting out vehicles according to improvised methods for carrying wounded lying down, for putting together any number of improvised cots for the temporary accommodation of wounded in empty buildings, halls, or other suitable shelters, during the period that must elapse before better and more suitable hospital equipment can be brought up, and for any kind of improvised work of this nature.

On mobilisation an officer, preferably a retired officer R.A.M.C., would be appointed by the General Officer commanding to each Division of the Territorial Force to act as Director of Clearing Hospitals, acting under the Administrative Medical Officer of the field army concerned, and would be assigned to the lines of communication, a certain number of Voluntary Aid Detachments being placed at his disposal in the proportion of one detachment at least for every field ambulance to be cleared by him; those first appointed would be drawn from the immediate neighbourhood; but other detachments, from counties behind the operations should, according to circumstances, be available for reinforcing them.

The detachments not so employed would be available at other places throughout the country for carrying on the functions of rest station and of local transport from the railway station to the general hospitals, or for providing a personnel to ambulance trains, etc. They might also be employed in connection with the establishment of convalescent dépôts, in preparing means of transport by road, in converting local buildings, villages, etc., into suitable clearing hospitals, evacuation stations, etc., and in establishing hospitals for the slightly wounded near the area of operations.

The men should be trained as stretcher bearers, and to a certain extent as male nurses; others should be trained as clerks and in sanitary work—such as disinfection of buildings and field sanitation—and each detachment should include some men who are expert carpenters or mechanics

The women's detachments would be employed chiefly in forming railway rest stations, for preparing and serving meals and refreshments to sick and wounded, during process of evacuation by railway, and for taking temporary charge in the evacuation stations or temporary hospitals of severe cases unable to continue the journey. The members should therefore be trained not only in field cooking and preparation of invalid diets, but in

arranging small wards for patients in suitable buildings, preferably near a railway station, and in such nursing as is necessary for the temporary care of patients until they can be transferred to a hospital. Half detachments might be employed for duty in ambulance trains:

A women's detachment should also be available for nursing and cooking duties in clearing hospitals prepared by men's detachments.

Summarising the duties it will be seen that if fully trained in time of peace, Voluntary Aid Detachments will be capable of fulfilling three separate functions :

1. The formation of clearing hospitals if they are in the immediate neighbourhood of the fighting forces (say, within ten miles).
2. The formation of temporary hospitals, rest stations, or collecting and evacuating stations.
3. Affording supplementary aid to clearing hospitals in advance of them, and nearer the scene of action.

It is pointed out that without instruction, training, and practice in time of peace the detachments could not be immediately efficient, and immediate efficiency is of the greatest importance. A complete acquaintance with the work to be done and the method of doing it will alone produce that absence of confusion and uncertainty which is the purpose of organisation in time of peace. It is imperative, therefore, that every county should form many Voluntary Aid Detachments; that courses of lectures should be given on (a) improvisation of apparatus for the transport of sick and wounded; (b) first-aid nursing; (c) practical demonstrations in the several varieties of work to be done, depending, of course, upon local opportunities.

The Ambulance Department of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem is prepared to organise a special branch in connection with its centres and various other units throughout the country to meet the preliminary educational requirements of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, viz. in First Aid and Nursing. County Associations in England and Wales should, therefore, arrange that all persons wishing to join a Voluntary Aid Detachment should be in possession of the St. John Ambulance Association's certificates, as follows: *Men, First Aid Certificate; Women, First Aid and Nursing Certificates.*

Members of aid detachments will not be required to wear any specific uniform, but to each individual will be issued an identity certificate, and will be entitled to wear a brassard (arm-badge), without which he or she will not be "recognised" by belligerents.

Each detachment as it is formed will be registered by the Council of the British Red Cross Society, and be given a consecutive number by the War Office.

The detachments will, from time to time, be inspected by the Military Authorities.

How to join the Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Persons desiring to be enrolled as members of a Voluntary Aid Detachment should fill up the accompanying Form of Application and forward the same to the County Director of the Red Cross Branch of the county in which they reside.

The County Director of the Red Cross Branch of the County is:—

It may be mentioned that enrolment as a member of a Voluntary Aid Detachment does not render such individual a member or associate of the British Red Cross Society. The conditions for admission as a member or associate of the British Red Cross Society are detailed in Form A, copies of which may be obtained from the Society's Office,

9, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.,

FRANK HASTINGS,

Secretary.

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To be torn off, and returned to the County Director.

Lt. Colonel Longstaff.

RIDGELANDS,

WIMBLEDON, S.W.

Form D.

Voluntary Aid Detachments.

To the County Director of the

..... Branch

OF

The British Red Cross Society.

I beg to make application to become a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment of the above Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

Christian and Surname

(Title, Mr., Mrs., Miss)

Address

Profession or Occupation

In which part of the County do you wish to serve?

Please write distinctly.

COMPOSITION OF THE VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS.

MEN.

HALF DETACHMENT.

HALF DETACHMENT.

● COMMANDANT

● ASST. COMMANDT.

● MEDICAL OFFICER.

● QUARTERMASTER.

● PHARMACIST.

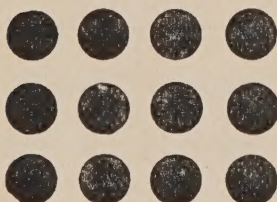
● ASST. PHARMACIST

● UNDER OFFICER..



SECTIONS

● UNDER OFFICER.



SECTIONS.

● MEDICAL OFFICER.,

● ASST. QUARTERMASTER.,

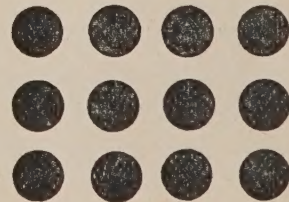
● PHARMACIST.

● ASST. PHARMACIST,

● UNDER OFFICER..



● UNDER OFFICER.



WOMEN.

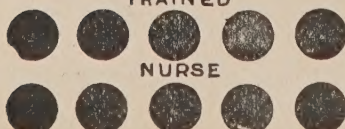
● COMMANDANT.

● ASST. COMMANDT.

● QUARTERMASTER,
(MAN OR WOMAN.)

● LADY SUPERINTENDENT.,

TRAINED



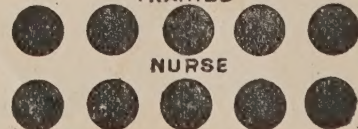
NURSE

} MEDICAL MEN OR MEDICAL WOMEN

● ASST. QUARTERMSTR.,
(MAN OR WOMAN.)

● LADY SUPERINTENDT.

TRAINED



NURSE